

My name is Patrick Gorman. I reside in Newtown, CT with my wife Ginny and our children Kevin and Maggie. I am here today to oppose H.B. 5326 that attempts to legalize assisted suicide. As a Catholic Christian, I oppose this legislation on moral grounds in that it is an affront on life, which can only be given and taken by a loving and merciful God. As co-chair of the Culture of Life Committee for Knights of Columbus Council # 185 at St Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, CT, I stand with my Brother Knights to protect the sanctity of human life, from conception to natural death.

In my personal experience, I understand the seductive nature of the message proposed by the proponents of this bill, to be "compassionate" for the chronically ill and dying by the misguided gift of assisted suicide. Instead of focusing resources to eliminate suffering, this bill is designed to eliminate the vulnerable and suffering person. My mother was chronically ill with cancer, diabetes, and depression for about 30 years. There were many times when her capacity to advocate for herself was greatly diminished by the symptoms associated with her depression. It was my brother Bill and I who stepped in and walked with her in her suffering, leading her to quality palliative and hospice care. She was able to live the last part of her life knowing that her children were actively engaged in the quality of her care, not interested in eliminating her to stop our own uncomfortable fears of chronic illness and death.

After our mother died peacefully in December 2010 of natural causes, my brother Bill and I realized that we had received a great gift from our mother, to walk with our loved one in the carrying of her cross. She taught us, through her suffering, to embrace our own crosses, and to help others to carry their crosses when it becomes difficult to bear. The lesson of God's mercy that our family experienced was precious, and will help us as we walk together, even in the most difficult and uncomfortable of times.

In summary, I oppose H.B. 5326 on personal and moral grounds. I urge this committee to show compassion of your own to our most vulnerable citizens by stopping this attempt to eliminate people, not suffering. Please be assured that I appreciate the time that you have provided me to communicate with you on this important matter of life.

Sincerely,

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